

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A method for improving sleep in a patient suffering from **gastroesophageal** ~~gastroesophagal~~ reflux disease, wherein the method comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of *S*-5-methoxy-2-[[~~(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl~~]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole (esomeprazole) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to a patient in need thereof.
3. (Currently amended) The method according to **claim** ~~any one of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the esomeprazole is administered in the form of an alkaline salt selected from the group consisting of Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , Na^{+} and K^{+} salts.
4. (Currently amended) The method according to **claim** ~~any one of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the salt is a magnesium salt.
5. (Currently amended) The method according to **claim** ~~any one of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the salt is a **sodium** ~~magnesium~~ salt.
6. (Currently amended) The method according to **claim** ~~any one of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the esomeprazole or an alkaline salt thereof is administered orally.
7. (Currently amended) The method according to **claim** ~~any one of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the esomeprazole or an alkaline salt thereof is administered parenterally.
8. (Currently amended) The method according to **claim** ~~any one of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the esomeprazole or an alkaline salt thereof is administered in a dose of from 1 to 100 mg daily.
9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the esomeprazole or the alkaline salt thereof is administered in a dose of from 10 to 40 mg daily.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)